

rise to astronomical rates throughout 2022 and beyond.

For an example of the risk of volatility in farming, the corn harvest is underway in some parts of Kansas, and the results are a fraction of the yield that farmers hope for and bank on during normal seasons. The farm bill which Congress will reauthorize in 2023 exists, in part, specifically for situations like this current corn crop to provide energy assistance to our ag producers even when Mother Nature doesn't cooperate.

The weather in Kansas can be extreme and unpredictable, which means that growing corn can be a very difficult prospect. Kansas is suffering from a major drought right now. According to the USDA, for the week ending September 11, only 14 percent of Kansas topsoil was rated as adequate. And USDA rated the corn condition 27 percent very poor, 27 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 20 percent good, and only 2 percent excellent. Meanwhile, according to Drought Monitor, 34 counties in my district alone are in extreme drought, and 16 are in exceptional drought.

The farther west you go in Kansas, Mr. Speaker, the worse it gets. Even irrigated fields are having issues, and far more corn crops than normal will be complete losses. Many Kansas producers are saying that this is the worst corn harvest in recent memory. This is a dire situation. Farmers invest hundreds of thousands of dollars in producing this essential crop, and its failure means that farmers are left wondering how they are going to put food on the table and pay for gas to drive their kids to school. To make matters worse, consumers end up without access to many of the products that they have learned to enjoy and on which they depend.

This is where farm bill programs like crop insurance come in. Crop insurance serves producers and consumers alike because it helps prevent producers from going out of business and grocery store aisles from sitting empty. Farm bill programs like crop insurance have secured our national food supply and helped generations of producers avoid bankruptcy when times get tough. We are in one of those times right now. Inflation is skyrocketing in America, President Biden is trying to impose his farm killer tax and dismantle the stepped-up basis, and producers are going out of business. The need to reauthorize the farm bill for 2023 has come at a critical moment in time.

A bad harvest in Kansas isn't just about money. It is about morale and spirit. Missing harvest time in Kansas doesn't just mean missing out on the yield of a cash crop. It means missing out on a special Kansas tradition of celebrating the culmination of all of your family's hard work. It creates financial insecurity while leaving a void where a renewal of family camaraderie should be. Washington, D.C., unfortunately, doesn't understand this. This

city has never been crippled by something like a lost harvest.

D.C. moves right along through drought, heat, late winter snows, and torrential downpours unfazed. That is why I am standing here today, to remind Congress that 1 in 10 employed Americans—nearly 20 million people in this country—work in food and agriculture where weather creates a make-or-break situation for their livelihoods. And, most importantly, every American has to eat.

American agricultural producers are hurting not only from skyrocketing input costs that come from inflation, but also from lowered morale that comes from extreme heat, drought, thin margins, and a broken supply chain. In 2023, Congress must reauthorize the farm bill with American farm families at the front of their minds because they are in a crisis.

I will be back on the floor soon to deliver another installment of my farm bill impact series and highlight more programs and titles within the bill that I believe Congress must understand and support to ensure that agriculture thrives in America. The people who feed, fuel, and clothe us all deserve our unwavering support. They also deserve a robust safety net in the farm bill and workable solutions to the inflation crisis before it is too late.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CARMEN LOUISE BOSSENROCK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the lives of two outstanding Eighth District residents.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the legacy of Carmen Louise Bossenbrock who passed away on July 31, 2022, at the age of 94. Carmen was a pioneering figure in the fight against polio, a tireless community advocate, and a beloved lifelong Wenatchee Valley resident.

As the polio epidemic rampaged across Washington State, Carmen became a medical leader in the Wenatchee Valley. Working at Deaconess Hospital and later Central Washington Hospital as a physical therapist, Carmen was often the only thing standing between polio patients and debilitating paralysis.

For 2 years, in the thick of the epidemic, she was the only licensed physical therapist practicing in north central Washington. As patients flooded through her doors, Carmen devoted herself to the recovery of hundreds of patients. As a reflection of her tireless leadership, Carmen became the head of physical therapy at Central Washington Hospital until her retirement.

Carmen remained a tireless advocate against polio in her later career. She was an active member of the Wenatchee Rotary Club—one of the first women to join. There she passion-

ately led fundraising for global vaccine programs to ensure no family would have to experience the devastation of polio.

Friends remember Carmen as a pillar of the community, splitting her time between her beloved pear orchard in Dryden and her mission to eradicate polio.

We are deeply grateful for Carmen's service. Her legacy will forever be a part of the Wenatchee Valley and Washington State. I join Carmen's family and friends in mourning their loss of an extraordinary woman.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GUNNERY SERGEANT ARTHUR BRANSON SUMMERS

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share the story of Gunnery Sergeant Arthur Branson Summers, a U.S. marine killed in action in World War II. After 76 years, his body has returned home to his family members and has been laid to rest in East Wenatchee, Washington.

Gunnery Sergeant Summers of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, was killed in the winter of 1943 in the Betio Island battle with Japanese forces. Sadly, Summers was 1 of 1,000 servicemembers who died that day and 1 of almost 500 whose remains were never found. Tragically for his family, friends, and loved ones, they were deemed nonrecoverable in 1949.

But this changed in 2009 thanks to the tireless work of the nonprofit organization History Flight. After a small piece of military rain poncho was found near the site, History Flight began excavations in 2009 and discovered the body of Gunnery Sergeant Summers along with several other lost servicemembers. His remains were brought home to his family, nephews David and Donald McCannel. He received an honorable burial in East Wenatchee, Washington.

Gunnery Sergeant Arthur Branson Summers answered our Nation's call at a time of great need, and for his service, valor, and sacrifice, we are forever thankful.

I would like to recognize History Flight for their work to return Summers to his home and to thank David and Donald McCannel and their families for providing Gunnery Sergeant Summers an honorable burial on American soil.

On behalf of a grateful Nation and the entire Eighth District, we are proud to have Gunnery Sergeant Summers in his final resting place in East Wenatchee, Washington.

HONORING THE ISSAQUAH ALL-STARS AND THE BONNEY LAKE/SUMNER LITTLE LEAGUE TEAMS

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor some tremendous young athletes. The Eighth District had not one but two teams representing our State at the Little League World Series. The Issaquah All-Stars represented the northwest region at the Little League Softball World Series, and the Bonney Lake/Sumner Little League team, at

the baseball Little League World Series.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud of these young athletes who represented our district and State so well on the national stage. Congratulations to them and their families on their success.

THE PANDEMIC IS OVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. McCLAIN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reiterate an important statement made by our President: The pandemic is over.

This weekend on "60 Minutes," President Biden finally said what most Americans have known for months: We are no longer in the COVID-19 pandemic.

So if the President just admitted it, that means the national emergency is over, correct?

If that is the case, then why did the President just tell the country that the pandemic is so bad that we should forgive billions of dollars of student debt, or that it is because of the ongoing pandemic that we must continue to enforce a vaccine mandate on our Nation's military?

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I will tell you why—it is because it was never about the pandemic. It was about the President bypassing Congress and the Constitution to push his radical socialist agenda.

Mr. Speaker, President Biden himself has said the pandemic is over. It is past time that we strip him of his emergency powers and end the vaccine mandates and reject all COVID-related funding requests.

CONGRATULATING THE LAS VEGAS ACES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and congratulate the Las Vegas Aces on winning the Women's National Basketball Association Championship this past Sunday.

On September 18, 2022, the Las Vegas Aces defeated the Connecticut Sun 78-71 in game four of the WNBA finals. The Aces won the championship three games to one and secured the first major professional sports championship in the history of the city of Las Vegas.

Even before the playoffs, the Aces had an incredible season led by rookie head coach Becky Hammon, who became the first former NBA player and rookie head coach to win the NBA championship.

Every member of the team, including Kiersten Bell, Sydney Colson, Chelsea Gray, Dearica Hamby, Theresa Plaisance, Kelsey Plum, Iliana Rupert, Aisha Sheppard, Kiah Stokes, Riquna Williams, A'ja Wilson, and Jackie

Young was critical to the success of the Aces this year.

Since coming to Las Vegas in 2018, the Aces have played well, but, unfortunately, up until now they were unable to win at all.

In 2020, during the COVID-shortened season and without key players due to injury, the team still made the WNBA finals but were ultimately turned back.

In 2021, the team was set for greatness, but, unfortunately, fell short in heartbreaking fashion in game five of the Western Conference Finals.

In the lead-up to the 2022 season, the team lost key players to free agency, and former coach Bill Laimbeer retired, but the organization shifted its focus and approach and took the league by storm.

Led by prolific three-point shooting, the Aces dominated the regular season and ended with a league best record of 26-10, securing the Commissioner's Cup along the way.

Heading into the playoffs, the team was primed for success.

Led by forward A'ja Wilson, who won this year's regular season Most Valuable Player, also Defensive Player of the Year, and first-team All-WNBA honors, fellow All-WNBA honors guard Kelsey Plum, and WNBA Most Improved Player Jackie Young, the Las Vegas Aces dominated the playoffs.

In the finals, Chelsea Gray delivered a tremendous performance, averaging 18 points per game in the series and winning the WNBA finals Most Valuable Player. In the championship-clinching game, Riquna Williams scored a crucial 17 points, with her incredible three-point shooting, to lift the Aces to victory.

Following this victory, Aces players Chelsea Gray, Kelsey Plum, Jackie Young, and A'ja Wilson, who competed and won gold medals for the United States in the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, joined an exclusive club of players who won both Olympic gold and the WNBA championship.

In closing, I congratulate owner Mark Davis who, through continued investment and caring, has put women's basketball on the map in Las Vegas; Coach Becky Hammon; all the amazing players, led by the A'ja Wilson; and the entire Las Vegas organization led by its president, Nikki Fargas, and general manager, Natalie Williams. Congratulations on this tremendous achievement.

The city of Las Vegas and all of southern Nevada are extremely proud of the Aces. They certainly raised the stakes and hit the jackpot.

RECOGNIZING 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF FINCASTLE, VIRGINIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 250th anniversary of Fincastle, Virginia.

In 1772, western-moving settlers John Mill and Israel Christian founded the

town of Fincastle, and by 1784 there were 59 homes as well as taverns and the early formation of a justice system.

Once Virginia's gateway to the West, Fincastle is the county seat of Botetourt, which once extended to the Mississippi River. Meriweather Lewis and William Clark visited Fincastle during their great expedition into the West. William returned to Fincastle and married Julia Hancock in 1808 in the historic home, Santillane. The town has been nationally recognized as a Lewis and Clark community.

Passing settlers stopped in Fincastle on their way into the interior of what would become the United States, conducting business and buying goods from the merchants in town.

Today, Fincastle proudly maintains its heritage and history.

Their version of the Botetourt County Courthouse, designed by President Thomas Jefferson, is located in Fincastle and contains records going back hundreds of years.

Fincastle's annual Historic Fincastle Festival will be a bit more special this year, celebrating the town's 250th anniversary, and being held this weekend.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent this historic town, a bedrock of the oldest colony and the great Commonwealth of Virginia.

BIDEN'S RADICAL AGENDA

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to criticize President Biden and House Democrats in Washington for turning their backs on hardworking families.

Month after month, they have continued to advance a radical agenda that has crushed the American Dream.

Grocery costs are up 13½ percent, electricity costs are up 15½ percent, fuel oil costs are up nearly 70 percent. Everything has gone up since this failed President took office. Why? Because Biden and the Democrats are obsessed with spending taxpayer dollars and pushing Socialist Green New Deal policies.

Last week, after yet another inflation report showed that prices were up again, Joe Biden and the Democrats threw a party at the White House. To add insult to injury, on his recent interview on "60 Minutes," President Biden had zero remorse for the devastating effects of his raging inflation crisis.

He continues to claim that the economy is great and that tons of jobs are being created. That is a lie. Here is what he is not telling you. Full-time jobs are way down, and it is only part-time jobs that are growing.

Biden and Democrats have sent a clear message that they don't care about American families. There is one solution to this problem: Stop reckless government spending. Virginia families are sick and tired of paying the price for Biden's radical agenda.

When Republicans retake the majority next year, we will end this inflation-fueled spending, fix this broken economy, and deliver power back to the American people.